CREATOR

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 3

Grasses

He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. Deuteronomy 11:15

Please join us for another treasure hunt (Matthew 13:44). We will be seeking the glory of our Lord Jesus hidden in the grasses He has planted all across Earth. Our Lord made grass such a common part of nature that we are liable to take it for granted. Yet, it is this plant that feeds the world. And in it, we see our Lord's love and care for all people!

As a group, grasses grow in more habitats than any other green plant. Christ's hand enables them to survive extreme heat and bitter cold, heavy rainfall, deadly drought, and endless wind. In a word, the Lord designed grasses to thrive in our fallen world, thus heralding Him as the God of bountiful life (1 Timothy 6:13a).

Can we conceive of a world without grass? It's like asking, "Can we imagine a world without our Father's lovingkindness?" The first question is not normally something that keeps people awake at night, but our lives would be vastly different without these plants. Grasses feed cattle and wildlife, and they provide food for us all. It has been said that if all the grass crops on Earth were to fail, even for one season, mankind would perish from the face of the planet!

1 Also known as inflorescence (in - flaw - RES - uhns)

The Nature of God Seen in the Nature of Grass

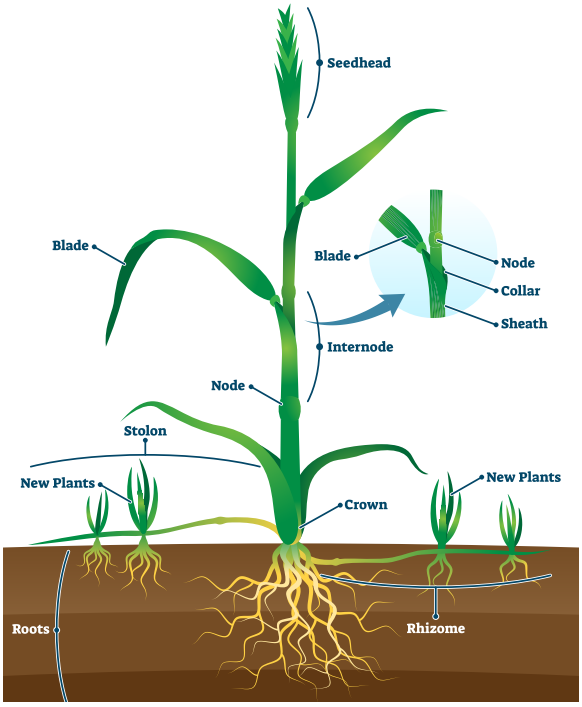
You are good and do good. Psalm 119:68

What is grass? First and foremost, it is a testimony to the character of Christ our Creator and especially His goodness! It is also a group of plants called Poaceae (poe - AYE - see - eye), which showcases God's astounding creativity as seen in 12,000 different species.

Grasses have many features in common with most green plants: flowers, seeds, leaves, stems, and roots. Yet, our Lord Jesus made each of these grassy structures unique in their own way.

Poaceae flowers[1] are not usually showy—they lack colorful petals and fragrant scents. Yet nature cannot hide the beauty of Christ Jesus—*the Great Gardener of Creation*. His loveliness finds expression in sweet and subtle ways, if we have eyes to see (the switchgrass *Panicum virgatum-cassisaari* below).

PARTS OF A GRASS



The flower head of grasses is a bouquet of several small flowers (see photo on front page). And like all flowering plants, the male portions produce pollen. Millions of smooth-surfaced pollen grains fill the air each year causing seasonal "hay fever"[2] in those unfortunate folks allergic to their proteins.

Further borne on the wind are grass seeds that can spread far and wide. Some seeds reach an altitude of 4,000 feet (1,220 m); they may travel many miles/kilometers to new locations. Our Lord uses mammals and birds to spread these packages of new life as well. Certain Poaceae seeds can temporarily stick to the fur and feathers of animals and are transported a distance from the parent plant. God's goodness in attending all grasses and His formation of grass seed (grain) is vital to the health and well-being of people and animals who depend on His faithfulness![3]

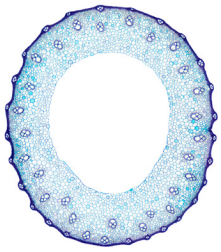
2 The pollen that triggers hay fever is not an infectious organism and does not cause body temperature to rise (fever). Rather, it is an intense irritant to the eyes and mucus membranes of the nose.

3 Read more about our Lord's marvelous creation of seeds in the ***CREATOR Journal*** Vol 24 Num 1.

Grasses are *monocots*,[4] meaning that their seeds possess only one (mono) *cotyledon* or embryonic leaf. God provides grass seed with highly developed roots and a starchy *endosperm*, which is akin to the yoke of a chicken egg.

The mature leaves of Poaceae have parallel veins (see grass blade on page 8). Grass blades typically spiral around the stem in two rows and are long, and thin with rough surfaces. Tropical grasses, however, are often oval, smooth, and quite large.

The vertical stems of grasses are known as *culms*. Jesus sculpted these to be hollow for most of their length, interrupted only by solid-tissue *nodes*; the hollow length of the culm is known as the *internode*. In addition, many Poaceae produce horizontal stems: *rhizomes* and *stolons* (see drawing left). Rhizomes are sometimes confused for roots but represent grass stems running underground. God gave them the ability to produce new shoots—a primary way Creator Jesus extends grass outward. Stolons are similar to rhizomes but spread along the soil surface.



Cross-section of a wheat culm with a hollow center (magnified)

Grasses lack taproots but possess dense mats of fine roots underground that represent more than 60% of the entire plant. Jesus causes their roots to become so well established that they are difficult to dislodge, which is good for the plant. They are not easily ousted by grazing animals, wind, or rain. The Lord additionally programmed grass to increase its root complex during droughts so that precious soil moisture can be more readily absorbed. But alas, these stubborn roots can plague homeowners with lawns overrun by crabgrass!

4 God created two kinds of flowering plants: monocots and dicots, depending on the number of "baby" leaves in their embryos.

Sovereign Lord

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign.
1 Timothy 6:15

Our Lord Jesus generously sowed grasses, including cereal grains, on Earth exactly where He first wanted them to grow:

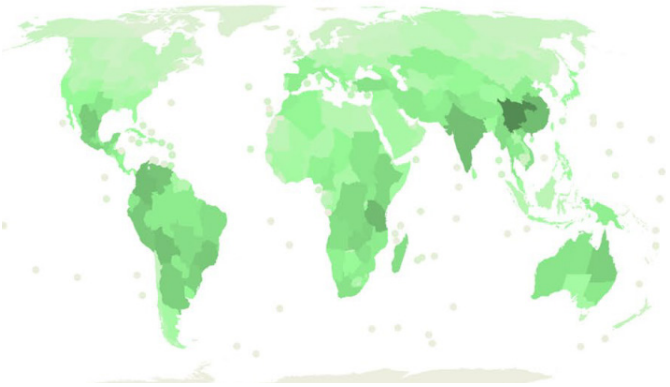
rice – *southern and eastern Asia*
maize – *Central and South America*
barley – *Europe, northern Asia, Americas*
wheat – *Middle East*
oats – *Middle East*
rye – *Middle East*
millet – *East Asia*
sorghum – *Africa (Sudan and Egypt)*
bamboo – *China*
sugarcane – *New Guinea, Southeast Asia*

Ubiquitous Grasses

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Psalm 139:7a

Like angels, grasses are everywhere but generally go unnoticed. They form one of the four great *biomes* on Earth—grasslands, forests, deserts, and tundra.[5] Though not literally found everywhere in the world (ubiquitous), grass grows on every continent. Only the ever-present Spirit of Christ could make it so!

All Grass Species



5 A biome is a large region on Earth where God has placed certain plants and animals that live in harmony within a specific climate.

Grass has been found growing near the suffocating sulfur clouds of volcanic fumaroles in Java,[6] at 18,000 feet (5,500 m) in the Himalayas, in Antarctica (hairgrass), and amid the temperature extremes of inhospitable deserts.

Our Father's Sweetness

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above. James 1:17

It has been said that grass is an amazing treasure, and it is! Yet sadly most of the world does not recognize that this gift is from our Heavenly Father. "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth" (Genesis 1:29).

Grass represents the "food pantry" of the world. All *cereal grains*—wheat, rice, oats, corn, barley, rye, millet, and sorghum—are grasses. More than half of the calories people consume come from these plants, especially wheat and rice.

In addition to cereal grains, God has blessed the world with sugarcane (*Saccharum* spp.). It is a perennial grass rich in *sucrose* or table sugar. First planted by our Lord in New Guinea and Southeast Asia, it now grows in many tropical areas on Earth. Pound for pound, it yields the world's largest crop (more abundant than wheat or rice), with Brazil and India cultivating 60% of all sugarcane.

6 Graham Harvey, *The Forgiveness of Nature*, Vintage, 2002, p. 42.

Burning a sugarcane field before harvest

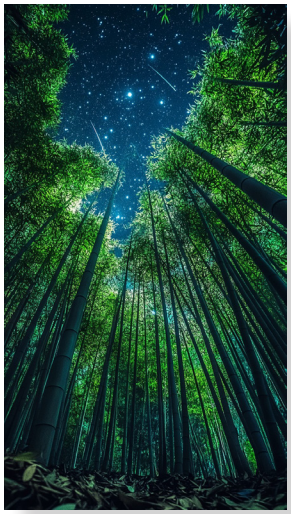
Providentially, this special grass illustrates the life of a believer in Christ, and the persistence of truth—divine sweetness—in His saints. Before modern agricultural techniques (and in poorer countries still) sugarcane was harvested by hand. It was first necessary to set a mature sugarcane field ablaze to burn off leaves and drive away venomous creatures. Then and only then could the crop be safely harvested. Like the afflictions ordained by our loving Father, trials tend to drive away the deadly affections that can ensnare His cherished children. Through them, Christians lose the "withering leaves of worldliness" but retain the hardy culms and roots of Christ's righteousness. As with the stalk of sugarcane—which is resistant to flames—God graciously makes us "fireproof." (Please read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.)

Harvested sugarcane stems (culms) charred by fire

Humbled Before Our Creator

Therefore humble yourselves. 1 Peter 5:6

There is a bamboo grove not far from where Colleen and I live, which we drive through on the way to town. I have nicknamed it "Humble Woods," but why do I call it that? Some bamboo plants in this grove stretch skyward 25 feet or more (7.5 m), making one feel very small. A serious study of grass teaches us humility. Standing in a grove of giant bamboo can be an unsettling experience. We might feel like grasshoppers in comparison, hardly something to bolster our pride. Yet, at times like this, our Creator's greatness becomes more apparent to us!



It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. . . Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:22, 26

Our ever-creative Lord Jesus fashioned around 1,500 species of bamboo. Most live in warm, humid, tropical or semitropical environments around the world. Many bamboo culms grow 40 feet (12 m) high; there is a plant in Laos called dragon bamboo that reaches 150 feet (46 m) in height. Bamboo is a relatively short-lived plant. To reach these heights it must grow quickly—up to three feet (1 m) per day or 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) an hour!

"Humble Woods"

Forests of bamboo flower infrequently, sometimes only once every 65 to 120 years. The individual plants don't live this long (usually 7-10 years), so somehow the forest collectively "knows" when to bloom. Botanists reason that they have some "internal clock," similar to the 17-year cicada. This mystery cannot be explained, pointing to our great Lord Jesus who indeed does the incredible.

Forgiveness

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground. Psalm 104:30

We could say that Christ's Spirit uses grasses as "healers of broken landscapes." When nature is disturbed by war, drought, storms, overuse, or pollution, Poaceae is usually the first to "come to the rescue." Creator Jesus designed two strategies to accomplish this: a) The tiny seeds of grass plants spread far and wide by the wind; and b) Established grasslands possess extensive root systems. When wildfires, for instance, consume a prairie, it destroys all life above ground. But the roots of perennial grasses survive because the soil is a natural insulator against heat. These surviving roots quickly produce underground shoots (rhizomes) and tillers, which then generate above-ground culms (stems) and leaves (blades). Our Lord is constantly filling the world with seeds, roots, and rhizomes. Even secular scientists see in this a type of "forgiveness" and "resurrection;" sadly, they don't acknowledge the One who is faithful to forgive people (Psalm 33:4-5; 1 John 1:9).

New grass growing from crown shoots after fire

The late Kansas senator, John James Ingalls (1833-1900), was the first to brand grass' ability to revitalize landscapes as "the forgiveness of nature."[7] We know that it is not nature's pardon but our Lord's goodness that brings about this rebirth! With infinite foresight, God placed the active growing part of Poaceae—the *crown*—at ground level, allowing the visible portion of grass to be "resurrected" after being burned, cut, or grazed.

Once established, the thick root system of grass acts as millions of "tiny fingers" grasping the soil very tightly, so much so that they have been described as an "impregnable fortress of subterranean vitality."[8] This divine design greatly helps prevent erosion, although it makes it nigh-on impossible for homeowners to pull up unwanted grasses from their lawns.

Further illustrating God's forgiveness, are the heavy-metal tolerant grasses. Poaceae are unique among all flowering plants in having the ability to absorb or assimilate all 92 naturally occurring elements.[9] (Tomatoes can assimilate 56 and sweet potatoes 70.) This is very important for at least two reasons:

7 John James Ingalls, *"Bluegrass," Kansas Magazine, 1872.*
8 Ibid.
9 Read about atomic elements and the Periodic Table in the ***CREATOR Journal*** Volume 12 Numbers 1 & 2.

1) As a group, grasses are better able to provide essential trace elements[10] to animals—both wild and domestic— than any other plant, and 2) It is possible to use certain grass species to clean up mines contaminated with heavy metals.

Heavy metal mine site in County Durham, UK

Known as *phytoremediation*, grass roots remove toxic metals from the soil and transport them to the upper portions of the plant—the leaves and stems. These industrial "lawns" can then be mowed, the clippings collected, and burned.

Our Lord Jesus knew from eternity past that the fall of mankind would inevitably lead to pollution. So in an act of divine providence, our Creator fashioned the seeds of heavy metal grasses with a need to be "bathed in mild solutions of mercury, lead, cadmium and other noxious poisons"[11] in order to germinate!

10 Like vitamins, many trace elements are essential to our diet. Those provided by plants include nitrogen (N), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), phosphorus (P), magnesium (Mg), sulfur (S), iron (Fe), chlorine (Cl), sodium (Na), manganese (Mn), nitrogen (N), zinc (Zn), molybdenum (Mo), boron (B), and nickel (Ni).

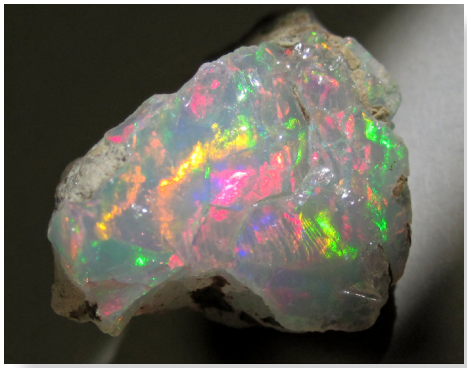
11 Graham Harvey, *The Forgiveness of Nature,* Vintage, 2002, p. 47.

Christ Our Rock

"For who is God, besides the Lord?
And who is a Rock, besides our God?" 2 Samuel 22:32

Did you know that grasses are partly composed of rocks? Christ designed their roots to absorb *silicic acid* from the soil, which is the soluble form of *silicon,* the second most common element of Earth's crust.[12] In plants, our Lord transforms silicic acid into silicon dioxide (SiO_2) or *silica*—the stuff of sand.

But instead of forming ordinary sand, silica forms tiny particles of *opal*. These microscopic gemstones are known as



A precious opal stone from Ethiopia

phytoliths (Latin for "plant stones"). God distributes phytoliths throughout plants: in their leaves, branches, shoots, flowers, fruits, stems, and roots. Jesus then uses this resilient stone work to stiffen the blades of grasses and provide their thin, fragile-looking stems with the extra strength needed to withstand blustery winds. Silica-rich vegetation is more temperature and drought-resistant than plants lacking phytoliths. Phytoliths also form a "stone wall" or barrier between invading molds/fungi and healthy plant tissue, greatly decreasing the rate of infection. And plant silicon enhances the process of photosynthesis to boot.

12 Ninety percent of Earth's crust is composed of silicate rocks.

It's fascinating to note that grasses used by people to eliminate heavy metals from contaminated mines have a relatively high concentration of silicon in their tissues as well.[13] Could God have used phytoliths made of sand rather than opal to accomplish these same wonderful things? Only He knows for certain. Yet isn't it like *our precious divine Rock* to fill countless plants with tiny gemstones of opal from His royal treasury instead of using ordinary sand?!

The Joy of Our Lord

So that My joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be made full. John 15:11

Parks and gardens allow children and adults the freedom of running and jumping on cheerful, green lawns while the cool, soft

fingers of grass blades tickle their feet. And their dense mats of underground roots give this unique outdoor carpet a wonderful springiness.

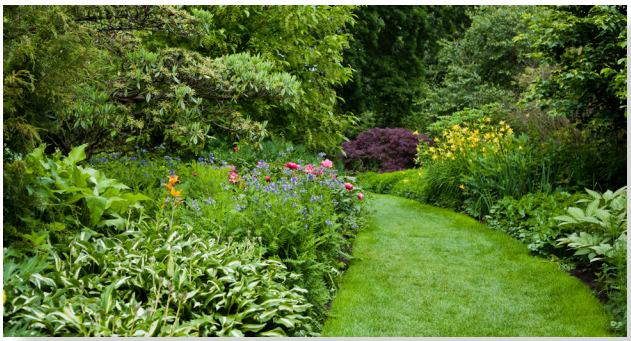
If we apply ourselves, we will discover the joy of the Lord woven into much of His Creation. This is especially true of Poaceae.

13 Whether or not this protective aspect of silica can be transferred to people from grass, we're not entirely certain. What we do know is that silicon is important for healthy skin, ligaments, tendons, and bones. And it has been found that people free from heart disease have up to 14 times more silicon in their arteries than those of the normal population. It is speculated that silicon increases the integrity and elasticity of arterial walls.

The Prince of Peace

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters. Psalm 23:1-2

We might wonder how the presence of grasses and natural areas improves the health of our communities. Lawns, parks, greenways, and meadows all possess a special



beauty of their own. Children, couples, dogs, and families are especially drawn to parks. Many of the world's loveliest gardens feature lawns. It would be impossible for us to measure the aesthetic value of mowed grass, but research has shown that it helps reduce blood pressure, anxiety, and depression.

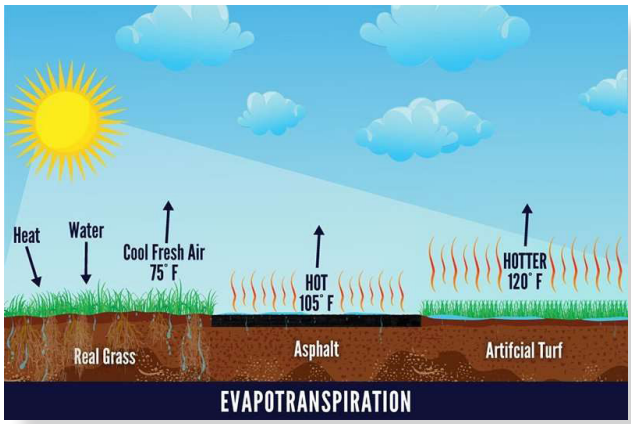
And is there a more joyful sight than young children playing happily in a local park on a sunny day? Clearly, our Lord Jesus—the *Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6)—created us to enjoy and find rest in these special grassy oases of His!

Grassy Benefits

Do not go out hastily to argue your case;
Otherwise, what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor humiliates you? Proverbs 25:8

Some folks take a negative attitude toward lawns and golf courses because of the water they need to keep growing. This objection seems reasonable in places of the world where water is scarce, such as deserts. As we have seen, though, city parks, lawns, and greenways offer many benefits.

Horticulturists have likewise discovered that cultivated grasses absorb large quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store excess carbon in their roots. These plants produce oxygen and moderate the temperature of their surroundings. Research has shown that a well-maintained 50-foot by 50-foot lawn releases enough oxygen for a family of four. And a small lawn can decrease the ambient temperature of its surroundings by 18° F (10° C).



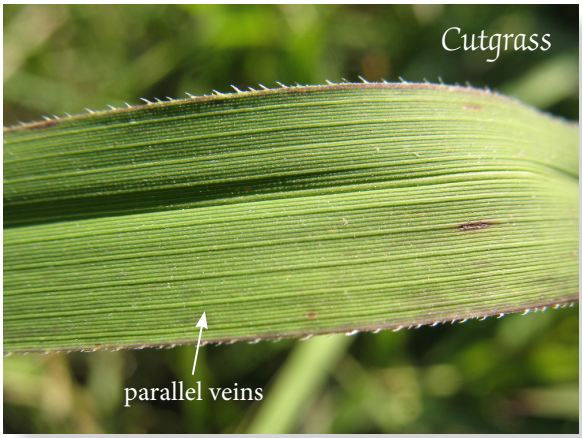
Of course, it must be recognized that some towns and cities have limited water supplies (those located in deserts). But even this should carefully be weighed against the public benefits grass sanctuaries can provide.

Holy God

And I will bring him near and he shall approach Me;
For who would dare to risk his life to approach Me?'
declares the Lord. Jeremiah 30:21b

Our Lord Jesus has woven into His great tapestry of Creation many things that demonstrate His holiness (Hebrews 7:26). If we carelessly explore nature, unaware or unconcerned of this truth, we are likely to experience harm or worse.

The blades of some grass species are stiff and covered with painful bristles or spines. Others possess saw-like leaf edges. Rice cutgrass is such a plant—widespread throughout Europe, Asia, and North America.



Cutgrass leaves can slice through human flesh and tatter clothing, giving rise to its name. During the days of Moses, caution was needed in approaching the Holy One of Israel (Leviticus 10:1-2). So too, it is very unwise to walk abruptly into a field of unfamiliar grass!

American pioneers met great challenges in the tall prairies of the Central Plains. Once described as a "sea of grass," these plants were often taller than a person's head. Getting lost in this vast expanse was a real possibility, as was being consumed by unpredictable wildfires.

It is our conviction that Christ Jesus has included such things in His Creation to lovingly remind us that His Father is holy and must be honored with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). Many today have become lax in their worship of the Almighty. He most certainly cares for people (Matthew 5:45), but we must never confuse this love for permission to treat Him irreverently.

His Kindness and Severity

Behold then the kindness and severity of God.
Romans 11:22

God has been kind to all people. We see this kindness in the abundance of grains and grasses He has given the world since the beginning of time! It is a grievous thing, therefore, to slight the goodness of our Lord—to ignore the One who "causes the grass to grow," and provides "food from the earth . . . food which sustains man's heart" (Psalm 104:14, 15).

As the great Creator, Christ has opened His garden of grains for all to enjoy. It is true that evil men horde these good things so that others must eat sparingly. Sadly, this is the way of our fallen world and it most certainly does not honor our Lord. There is so little fear of God in our land these days.

Yet, can we say with the Apostle Paul, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. . . in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need" (Philippians 4:11, 12). In his book, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, Thomas Brooks writes, "Usually the worst of men have most of these outward things; and the best of men have least of earth, though most of heaven."[14] It is a blessing to behold the goodness of God! And it does not depend on how much or how little we possess. The question is,

As the great Creator, Christ has opened His garden of grains for all to enjoy.

do we have a heart to see Christ's hand in these abundant treasures of His?

It is grievous sin for us to have these "outward things" given to us daily while failing to see the kindness of God supplying them—to harden our hearts to the One who alone is good (Mark 10:18). Could there be a greater evil on Earth?

Grasses and grains speak loudly throughout the world of our Lord's glory. Those of us who love Jesus, rejoice in this His kindness. Those who don't—though they experience His goodness now—will know only His severity later. "There is nothing in the world that does so provoke God to be wrathful and angry, as men's taking encouragement from God's goodness and mercy to do wickedly," writes Pastor Brooks.[15]

Please pray with us that many would see our Creator's goodness, repent of their wickedness, and believe His Gospel! No one will see *the Gardener*[16] in His words, ways, or works unless His Spirit opens the eyes of their heart (Ephesians 1:18; John 20:15-16).

"Wheat Field and Storm"

14 Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, The Banner of Truth Trust, 2021, p. 64.

15 Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, The Banner of Truth Trust, 2021, p. 65.

16 We are using the title "Gardener" here as synonymous with "Creator."

Christian Mimic

The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness. Matthew 13: 41

In the parable of the tares (Matthew 13:24-30), Jesus warns us that false believers will invade His Church. To the untrained eye, tares (darnel) and wheat appear very similar. Yet, at maturity, the two show marked differences. The spikelets of "false wheat" are skinny, separated from one another, and anemic-looking. Those of true wheat are full of grain and tightly grouped.

Darnel / Tares

Darnel (*Lolium temulentum*) is a toxic grass that mimics wheat. Historically, it grows alongside cultivated wheat and until modern times, very difficult to separate from it. Darnel is host to a poisonous fungus that produces mind-altering chemicals (hallucinogens). The Latin word, *temulentum*, means "drunk," and in high enough doses, the grain can kill. It is not hard to see why our Lord Jesus likened darnel to false believers. Over the centuries, how many churches have been "intoxicated" with the emotionalism of strange doctrines, which damns rather than brings true life?

The Praise of God

Let the field exult . . . before the Lord, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness. Psalm 96:12a, 13

Grass urges us to worship Christ our Creator. But how can something so simple lead us to praise God?
1) As we have learned, grass is *not* simple. Its construction is complex, composed of millions of microscopic parts. And Jesus fashioned not one, but 12,000 different kinds of grass to show us both *His goodness* and *His greatness!*
2) Grasses thrive on all the continents of Earth, allowing them an opportunity to encourage Christ-centered worship worldwide.
3) The majority of calories consumed by all people come from Poaceae. Oh, how this should move us to thank our Heavenly Father at every meal!

4) In autumn—prairies, meadows, and fields showcase the beauty of our Creator with a gallery of lovely, muted colors.
5) Grass' ability to revive after fire is a type of "rebirth," pointing to the renewal that all Creation will experience at the coming of Christ (Romans 8:19-23) and the resurrection we will soon know (1 Corinthians 15:51-57). Unlike other vegetation, the new leaves of Poaceae grow from the base of the plant at ground level. Their blades can be cut or crushed over and over, yet they continue to regrow.

The Bread of Life

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;
he who comes to Me will not hunger,
and he who believes in Me will never thirst." John 6:35

Most folks eat bread daily—our Lord made it part of our usual diet (Matthew 6:11). But what is bread? Depending on where you live in the world, you'll probably answer this question differently than others. The one thing in common to all breads is that they are made from the flour or meal of cereal grains.

bread – (grain) – *origin*

ciabatta – (wheat) – *Italy*
Irish oat bread – (oats) – *Ireland*
pita bread – (wheat) – *Mediterranean*
naan – (wheat) – *India*
rye bread – (rye) – *Europe*
balep korkun – (barley) – *Tibet*
challah – (wheat) – *Israel*
pumpernickel – (rye) – *Germany*
corn tortilla – (maize)[17] – *Mexico*
rukacarara – (sorghum) – *Rwanda*
baguette – (wheat) – *France*
mantou – (wheat) – *China*
bajri no rotlo – (millet) – *India*
injera – (teff flour) – *Ethiopia*
bánh mì – (wheat) – *Vietnam*
folar de chaves – (wheat) – *Portugal*
sangak – (wheat) – *Iran*

All these breads are enjoyed the world over. Yet only our Lord Jesus Christ can feed us daily with true spiritual food. Baked bread will satisfy us for the moment; Christ's Spirit gives Life abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus is Living Bread. He does not just sustain life (He does do that!), *He Is Life—Eternal Life.*

Divine Bread – (Essence) – *Origin*

Jesus – (I AM) – *Heaven*

Sandwich made with ciabatta bread

Balep korkun – traditional Tibetan bread with vegetable soup

Sangak – traditional Iranian bread

And the Life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the Eternal Life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.
1 John 1:2

17 Maize is another name for corn.

The Gospel of Humility

"All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass." Isaiah 40:6-7

Grasses reveal traits that we can relate to as Christians. They show resilience and perseverance under various trials. They can be crushed, abused, and cut in pieces, yet grow back with greater vigor. They possess a lowliness that teaches us that only the humble are useful to God (2 Corinthians 6:1-10).

Do you possess the Lord's humility (Philippians 2:5-8) and are you fitted to Christ's Created Order? Are you willing to be as a "grasshopper" in the worship of our Creator (Isaiah 40:22)? "Praise the Lord from the earth, . . Creeping things; . . kings of the earth and all peoples" (Psalm 148:7a, 10b-11a)? All of us are stained with the sin of pride yet those who love Jesus actively resist it, repent of it, and hate it. And this sin is washed away by the blood of Jesus through faith in Him.

There are those who look like Christians but are "darnel" among the wheat of Christ's true Church. These "tares" can be known by their pride and disobedience to God. If your life is defined by these, you are in danger of being consumed forever (Matthew 13:40). True lowliness and heart-felt obedience are gifts of the Holy Spirit and cannot be feigned. If you love Christ you will long to obey Him (1 John 5:2).

"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5a). Jesus died on the Cross as a propitiation[18] for the sins of His people. Are you a sinner? Have you repented of those sins? Do you believe that Christ died to wash you clean of your sins and rose from the grave to defeat death—to become your Eternal Life? If you answer "Yes!" to these questions, you are certainly filled with the Holy Spirit and He will cause your love for Jesus to grow.

Turn to Christ and be saved! Then you will experience His joy in the New Creation—in the green Paradise of God's glory!

18 Propitiation means to satisfy the wrath of God against sin.

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5a

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